

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00471 110924Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07
DLOS-09 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P 110857Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4248
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0471

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA UR PEPR
SUBJECT: JAPANESE FONMIN SONODA'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 0235

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO INITIAL PRESS REPORTS, FONMIN
SONADA'S TALKS WITH SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PREDICTABLY COOL AND
UNPRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN SONODA'S VISIT TO MOSCOW HAS RECEIVED HEAVY FRONT-
PAGE COVERAGE FROM TOKYO PRESS OVER PAST THREE DAYS EVEN TO
EXTENT OF MOMENTARILY OVERSHADOWING CURRENT US-JAPAN TRADE
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TALKS. ACCORDING TO DETAILED ACCOUNTS FILED BY JAPANESE
JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW, IN THEIR THREE MEETINGS BOTH
GROMYKO AND SONODA PREDICTABLY SHOWED LITTLE
FLEXIBILITY ON KEY ISSUES:

-- GROMYKO (AND KOSYGIN IN SEPARATE COURTESY CALL)
CONTINUED TO DENY EXISTENCE OF ANY UNRESOLVED

TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS IN FACE OF SONODA'S REITERATION
OF BASIC JAPANESE POSITION OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

-- SONODA IN TURN REFUSED, REPORTEDLY RATHER CURTLY, TO
CONSIDER SOVIET PROPOSAL OF GOOD NEIGHBOR TREATY,
WHICH WOULD SIDE-STEP TERRITORIAL QUESTION AS
PRELIMINARY TO PEACE TREATY.

-- IN REFERENCE TO PROPOSED SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT), BOTH GROMYKO AND KOSYGIN
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY
JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD BE IMPAIRED BY "A THIRD
COUNTRY" (CHINA). SONODA EMPHASIZED THAT AS JAPAN
SOUGHT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, ITS
ADHERENCE TO CHINA PFT WOULD NOT SIGNIFY HOSTILITY
TOWARDS USSR.

2. ACCORDING TO FONOFF 1ST EAST EUROPE DIVISION,
JAPANESE DELEGATION HAS PRESSED FOR INCLUSIOMMIN FINAL
COMMUNIQUE OF LANGUAGE REFERRING TO EXISTENCE OF
TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS. AS SOVIETS WERE UNLIKELY TO
ACCEPT SUCH LANGUAGE, IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT NO
COMMUNIQUE AT ALL WOULD BE ISSUED.

3. JAPANESE PRESS HAS MADE MUCH OF SOVIETS' TOUGH
STAND ON TERRITORIAL QUESTION AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME
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SPECULATION THAT SONODA'S FAILURE TO SEE BREZHNEV --
MEETING WHICH JAPANESE FONMIN HAD EAGERLY SOUGHT --
WAS SIGN OF SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH JAPANESE
INSISTENCE ON RAISING NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE. ON
OTHER HAND, SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE NOTED THAT SOVIET
COMMENTS ON SINO-JAPANESE PFT COULD HAVE BEEN CAST IN
MUCH STRONGER NEGATIVE TERMS.

4. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER READ-OUT ON SONODA
VISIT ONCE JAPANESE DELEGATION RETURNS TO TOKYO.
MANSFIELD

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